

2/24/22

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Ref: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS NEAR LAKES AND PONDS.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to convey my experience in with the current notification system for pesticides and herbicides near and in pond and lakes in Connecticut. I currently co-own a property on West Lake in Guilford, Connecticut. My mother has resided at this property for over 20 years and each end every summer for the last 19 years, I have spent countless hours with my 3 children swimming, fishing and playing in this lake.

Over the last few years we have been made aware that pesticide/herbicide treatments have been authorized by CT DEEP for multiple, large quantity amounts of Liquid Copper Tea, Diquat and Glyphosate (Roundup). The companies hired to put these chemicals in the water are currently required to just place a small legal notice in the local paper with a myriad of possible dates throughout the year that the applications may be made to the water. They also only have to place a small placard on the beach area or entrance area of the location where the chemicals were placed. They are not required to notify others who share the lake.

These chemicals carry warning labels indicating that you can't swim, drink, allow livestock to drink or water plants for 3 days after applications. Glyphosate is currently listed by the World Health Organization as a probable carcinogen and is banned from use at Connecticut daycare centers and schools due to these concerns.

On June 24th, 2021, a small legal notice was seen in the online local newspaper, listing over 70 days of potential applications of these herbicides/pesticides to West Lake. The first date listed, was the following day. Graduation parties and other events were suddenly canceled with us and our neighbors due to concerns about these chemicals. Very little conversation was had between myself and the company that was hired to apply these chemicals. I was told the company was within their rights to apply the chemicals and there was nothing I could do to prevent it or get notification through the state. The owner offered a call before each application which I only received one call on July 27th, 2021, hours after the application to the beach.

It is important to note that West Lake is a spring supplied lake which moves the water significantly. This results in the chemicals moving from where they were applied to other locations. The debris of weeds that are killed off then float to the surface and float to other locations around the lake. The companies are not required to remove their debris and other property owners have to remove it at their own expense. In addition, the larger debris creates something called muck islands, which ultimately has created some new land masses around the lake. In some cases these islands have blocked lake access from residents. Road runoff is also

a significant issue as non-paved roads filter all the petroleum based road-fill debris, directly into West Lake through pipes the town installed. Consequently, the lake has gone from 55 acres to 52.5 acres with these muck island and swamp areas that have been created.

I have had difficulty getting information with a FOIA request on how many permits were issued by DEEP and to whom since this process began. The enormous quantities of chemicals granted by the State of Connecticut for this little Lake has left us scared about using the lake and the wells that filter in from this lake water. To add that we are not required to be properly notified with advanced notice of actual dates of application is inadequate and frankly, dangerous for my family.

I am aware that this bill is only addressing the notification process but the chemicals have created a whole host of other dangerous and problematic issues with West Lake that in 20 years, have not been seen. I look forward to discussing those issues in future bills.

Our West Lake Community paid for a survey of the lake in 2022 to have actual documentation of the issues we have been seeing. I will attach the link with the results of that study indicating issues with the herbicide/pesticide applications to West Lake in 2022.

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Invasive-Aquatic-Plant-Program/W/West-Lake/West-Lake-2021>

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide my experience with the currently inadequate notification system regarding herbicide/pesticide applications to West Lake. My family and I appreciate your focus on the notification process and keeping our kids and community safe in Connecticut lakes and ponds.

Thank you,  
Martina Jakober